REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application.

Objections

At page 4, paragraph 4 of the office action, Claims 8-11 are objected to for being labeled "original." As requested by the examiner, Claims 8-11 have been re-labeled "previously presented." The objection is believed to be obviated.

Obviousness Rejections

At page 4, paragraph 2 of the office action, claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,798,767 to Alexander et al. (At pages 6-7 of the office action, claims 8-11 are discussed.) At page 7 of the office action, claims 3 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander in view of U.S. Patent 6,731,625 to Eastep et al.

Applicants traverse the obviousness rejections as follows.

Applicants' claim 1 recites a telephone controller that comprises, among other things, "a control circuit that generates an ID" (which comprises "@domain name" as "ID" is defined and used in Applicants' specification) "and an extension of the requesting telephone set in case the message for requesting the IP address is received". An example of a domain name is an Internet domain name "soho-ip.abc.co.jp." (Applicants' specification, page 3, lines 10+). An example of an ID in a table is shown in Fig. 4: 100@ soho-jp.abc.co.jp.

Applicants' claimed telephone controller of claim 1 recites "a notifying unit that notifies the requesting telephone set of the ID, the extension and the IP address for the requesting telephone set". (Emphasis added.) That is, the notifying unit in the invention sends back to the telephone set an ID comprising an Internet domain name.

By contrast, Alexander is not providing notification to a user's requesting telephone of an ID comprising an Internet domain name. Alexander deals with users' IP addresses (see, e.g., Fig. 4B) but not with ID comprising a domain name.

Applicants' presently claimed telephone controller provides unexpectedly superior advantages over the closest cited art, the telephone controller of Alexander. Namely, an unsophisticated user can use the telephone controller of Applicants' claim 1 to cause his telephone to get notified of the user's ID (comprising a domain name); however, that same user trying to use Alexander's controller would be completely unable to cause his telephone to get notified of the user's ID (comprising a domain name).

Applicants' claim 1 recites "a table that stores an ID" (which necessarily comprises a domain name), "an extension and the IP address". Alexander is lacking such a table. Alexander's table is missing the ID. This is not a trivial omission. Alexander really has nothing to do with an ID comprising a domain name; what he is accomplishing is in an entirely different area. Namely, he is concerned with evaluating off-hook processing information, signaling other devices when to ring, and otherwise dealing with traffic on multiple lines. For example, he is concerned with being able to make multiple telephony (or other) devices ring in response to a call being made to a single telephony device.

The Examiner's assumptions about DHCP are without applicability to Alexander because even assuming conventional DHCP technology, still Alexander plus conventional DHCP technology does not result in Applicants' inventive telephone controllers. When DHCP is used, a user's telephone is talking "on its own" about internal communications within a LAN context. Conventional DHCP is not able to assign and notify a user's telephone of an ID comprising a domain name. With some conventional systems, a user may connect his telephone which then may self-establish itself for use in the LAN context. However, what is lacking in Alexander (and otherwise in the conventional DHCP technology) was for a telephone to be connected and to be able to communicate such that it could cause to receive notification back of an ID duly ending in "@" followed by the domain name of the user's company.

Nor does Eastep supply the deficiencies in Alexander. Firstly, Eastep's disclosure of email addresses in his context is not particularly relevant to either Alexander or Applicants' claimed invention. Eastep's column 83, line 34+ deals with internet telephony especially as an internet chat server as a meeting place. Eastep recognizes that for this to work, the telephone needs to be uniquely

identified "perhaps by email address." (Col. 83, lines 40-41.) Eastep assumes that a telephone user who wants to participate somehow already knows his email address so that he can uniquely identify himself and participate. Eastep is not proposing that his service will tell the user what the user's own email address is.

Importantly, it should be appreciated that neither Alexander nor Eastep discloses a control circuit that generates an ID comprising a domain name along with a telephone controller which notifies the requesting telephone of an ID comprising a domain name.

Moreover, Eastep's column 83 is not reasonably combinable with Alexander in the manner that the Examiner proposes. Alexander concerns traffic on multiple lines, such as making different devices ring when a single device has been called. By contrast, the part of Eastep cited (column 83) concerns Internet telephony which has been a significant, but different, emerging technology. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not be combining these different technologies, or combining Alexander and Eastep, as the Examiner proposes. Even with Alexander and Eastep, a person of ordinary skill in the art falls short of Applicants' presently claimed invention. For example, he still lacks "a table that stores an ID" (necessarily comprising a domain name), an extension and the IP address" and "a notifying unit that notifies the requesting telephone set of the ID, the extension and the IP address for the requesting telephone set." Also, Alexander and Eastep fail to concern a "requesting telephone set" that requests and ultimately gets notified as the requesting telephone set in Applicants' claims.

For simplicity and brevity, Applicants do not comment on each dependent claim at this time. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejections are respectfully requested.
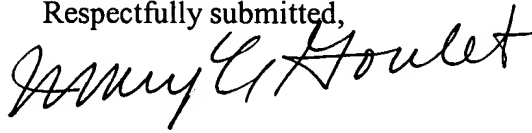
It is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-11 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephone or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any

fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson).

Respectfully submitted,

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